

# REPORTER



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF PACE LOCAL 7-232

VOLUME 25, NO.7

AUGUST 2004

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT** by Scott Godshaw

## Briggs to move Service to New Building Strattec shows a very positive EVA

### SERVICE DIVISION

The Bargaining Committee met with the management of the Service Division and it was revealed that Service will be moving from their current location at the Falls plant to a brand new building also in Menomonee Falls. Dave Zuern, Director of the Service Division, stressed that due to the strong effort of his workforce, they were able to stay in the Milwaukee area. The members at Service are to be commended for the excellent work they perform day in and day out.

### STRATTEC

On Friday July 30th, Ross Winklbauer, Karl Schneider and myself attended a meeting at Strattec to hear this year's EVA results. Once again, Strattec's EVA was extremely positive as the members will receive a 12.96% EVA profit sharing bonus. Similar to last year when the company contributed to the pension fund, another contribution was made to the pension fund and again had a positive effect on the EVA. The announcement was certainly well received by the membership.

### BRIGGS

At Briggs, as of August 1, 2004, piecework has been discontinued. This, of course, was part of the 2001 contract ratification where members with 1979 seniority or greater were eligible for a \$21,000 pension bonus. This actually is quite sad, even though there were not a lot of piecework jobs left anyway. Piecework built this company. A lot of blood, sweat and tears, not to mention aching bones and tired limbs went into the many, many years of successful piecework operations.

### LABORFEST

Once again it's time for our holiday, Labor Day. And what better way to celebrate the day than by joining us at Laborfest down at the Lakefront. The day, as always, starts with a march to the Summerfest grounds. All members that participate in the march will receive a free Union t-shirt commemorating the event. There will be fun, food, beverages and live music. So, show your Union pride and join your friends this year at Laborfest on Labor Day. You will be glad you did.

## LABOR DAY 2004

Join us at LaborFest on Labor Day

Monday September 6, 2004

Fun, food, beverages, music and free Union T-shirts if you participate in the march.



**BE THERE!**

## August Membership Meeting

Sunday

August 15, 2004

9:30 a.m.

Frank Monreal's El Matador

9155 W. Bluemound Rd.

**IMPORTANT BUSINESS**

- Reports of Officers, Grievance Representatives and Committees
- Discussion and action on any other proper business for this meeting.
- Discuss and vote on amended by-laws

# Democratic Presidential Nominee John Kerry on Issues

## Good Jobs

“We believe in an America where prosperity is measured not in the profits run up during a jobless economy, but in opportunity and rising incomes for working families and the middle class.”—*John Kerry, Seattle, Feb. 3, 2004*

One of the first priorities of a John Kerry White House will be to restore the jobs—including manufacturing jobs—that have disappeared during the Bush administration. Kerry backs policies that will strengthen the middle class: He wants to protect the increases in the child tax credit, the reduced marriage penalty and the new tax bracket that helps people save \$350 on their first level of income. Kerry wants to give more tax breaks to the middle class with new tax credits on health care and college tuition. Kerry says one way to shore up our nation’s industrial base is with a new tax credit to encourage manufacturers to remain in this country and expand their operations in the United States. Kerry has proposed creating jobs through a new manufacturing jobs credit, by investing in new energy industries, restoring technology and stopping layoffs in education. Kerry believes one of the surest steps to job creation is focusing federal infrastructure resources on critically needed projects such as building roads and bridges and water and sewer systems and upgrading the nation’s transportation systems. Kerry also calls for a new State Tax Relief and Education Fund to help states overcome the nearly \$100 billion in state budget deficits created by the Bush administration policies that have forced states to cut public safety, education and health care, lay off workers and raise taxes and fees. A Kerry administration will fight to save overtime rights, close the pay gap between men and women wage earners and raise the minimum wage.

## The Economy

“My economic policy is not to export American jobs but to reward companies for creating and keeping good jobs in America. I want to repeal every tax break and loophole that rewards any Benedict Arnold CEO or corporation for shipping American jobs overseas.”—*John Kerry, Washington, D.C., Feb. 10, 2004*

John Kerry will work to roll back President George W. Bush’s tax cuts for the nation’s wealthiest, which saddle the U.S. economy with long-term deficits and are a major factor in the nation’s more than \$500 billion budget deficit in 2004. But Kerry will not repeal the tax cuts for the middle class because such a move would hurt those who have borne the brunt of the Bush bust, making it even harder for them to make ends meet. Instead, Kerry supports tax breaks for the middle class with new tax credits to help cover health care and college tuition costs. Kerry says one way to shore up our nation’s industrial base is with a new tax credit to encourage manufacturers to remain in this country and expand their operations in the United States. And whether the corporation is industrial-based or white-collar, he plans to close every tax loophole, every benefit, every reward for any CEO or corporation that exploits the tax code to hide money or sends middle-class American jobs overseas. He will offer new incentives to reward good companies that create and keep good jobs here at home. He proposes new strategies for helping small business, especially small manufacturing operations, to ensure adequate private capital is available to finance the demands of a growing economy. Kerry will help state and local governments create jobs in necessary infrastructure

through an expansion of the Community Development Block Grant program. In trade policy, Kerry will negotiate trade agreements that include meaningful labor, environmental and human rights protections. He will not pursue trade policies that undermine important U.S. laws and regulations, especially those that protect America’s workers.

## Health Care

“I will fight to cover every American; to give every American access to the same health plan as members of Congress; and, while the insurance companies may not like it, I will fight to hold down costs for the 163 million Americans who are already covered today. The average American family will save \$1,000 a year; the average insurance company will have to stop overcharging consumers.”—*John Kerry, Jan. 14, 2004, Davenport, Iowa*

John Kerry’s first major legislative proposal to Congress will be a realistic plan to stop spiraling health care costs, cover every child in the nation and make it possible for all of America’s workers to receive the same health care as any member of Congress. Kerry’s health proposal includes help for employers to provide quality health care coverage for their workers. He seeks to extend health insurance coverage to some 99 percent of all children with a new compact with the states in which the federal government picks up the cost of Medicaid coverage for low-income children in exchange for automatic enrollment of all school children in the Children’s Health Insurance Program. Kerry opposed Bush’s \$139 billion giveaway to drug industry and HMOs in the recent Medicare bill. To control soaring drug costs, Kerry proposes channeling the federal government’s purchasing power to encourage drug wholesalers to pass along to consumers the rebates they receive from manufacturers; making more affordable generic drugs available; allowing states to the right to negotiate better deals and enable everyone to buy quality prescription drugs safely and more affordably from Canada. For older Americans, Kerry backs a meaningful prescription drug benefit in Medicare and he also will never force seniors into private HMOs instead of traditional Medicare.

## Retirement Security

“Corporations won’t get tax breaks for CEOs million-dollar retirement windfalls while they cut back on worker pension plans. We need a President who fights for a fair retirement for every family, not Paradise Island for millionaires.”—*John Kerry, Jan. 14, 2004, Davenport, Iowa*

John Kerry supports strengthening protections for workers’ retirement security, from traditional defined-benefit pensions, to 401(k) plans and Social Security. Kerry will protect Social Security from risky privatization schemes that will siphon billions of dollars from out of the trust fund, and he will prevent it from becoming another private account plan subject to the unpredictable whims of the stock market. Kerry’s “Compact with the Greatest Generation” guarantees seniors protection for Social Security and Medicare, opposes raising the retirement age, helps seniors afford their prescription drugs and ensures long-term care. Kerry says that retirement benefits for workers with employer-provided defined-benefit plans should not be jeopardized if the employer changes to a cash balance plan that favors younger workers and reduces the pension benefits of older workers who are closer to retirement. Workers with 401(k)-type plans should have greater

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participation in managing and investing those plans and employers should be required to provide thorough and accurate information. To prevent workers from losing their pension savings if their company goes bankrupt, as happened to many Enron employees, Kerry will make sure that companies cannot force employees to hold employer stock for long periods of time. Kerry also supports portable pension plans in which workers would be covered by the same plan when they change jobs. Kerry also backs a prescription drug benefit run by Medicare, not private insurers—and one that does not undermine current coverage seniors may have or force seniors into HMOs.

### Education

“My comprehensive plan to provide for America’s children is an example of the kind of leadership America is craving for from its president. It provides real solutions to the problems our families are facing every day and it is a real plan to leave no child behind.”—*John Kerry, Dec. 10, 2003, Manchester, N.H.*

One of John Kerry’s first priorities as president will be to live up to the funding commitments made in the No Child Left Behind Act, which currently is underfunded by more than \$9 billion and fails to provide states needed flexibility to meet the goals of the law. Promising to be an advocate for public schools, Kerry will support teachers and paraprofessionals with better training and better pay, more career opportunities, empowerment and mentors. As U.S. senator, Kerry has fought for mandatory funding for special education and he will ensure such funding is provided for elementary and secondary education. He opposes private school vouchers that drain scarce funds from public schools. Instead, he supports efforts to increase resources to public schools to ensure all students have quality teachers, high standards, smaller classes and safe, modern schools. Kerry has been at the forefront of the fight in Congress to obtain federal funding for school construction, introducing legislation that would allow the federal government to issue \$24.8 billion in school modernization bonds—and apply Davis-Bacon prevailing wage standards—to help states and school districts repair and build modern schools. He will make repairing and renovating existing school buildings and building new ones a major priority and will end the partisan divide that threatens progress on school construction and bring members of both parties together to do what is in the best interest and safety of our nation’s school children.

### Manufacturing

“The extreme policies of this administration have cost America 3 million jobs in three years. How dare they even mention the economy when they have lost manufacturing jobs every single month they have been in office.”—*John Kerry, Feb. 7, 2004, Richmond, Va.*

John Kerry supports a coordinated strategy to keep the industrial sector strong. He recognizes the challenges are varied: Some industries need additional capital to expand, some suffer from lax enforcement of fair trade policies, some need more assistance conducting research, and others don’t get enough government contracts. As president, Kerry will bring together leaders of manufacturing industries, unions and government to develop policies that meet the needs of different industries and keep jobs in the United States. Kerry believes we should get rid of Bush administration-sanctioned tax incentives that encourage manufacturers to move their

jobs overseas. Further, he will save jobs by ending the unpatriotic practice of U.S. corporations reincorporating overseas to avoid paying their fair share of taxes and refuse to grant such companies government contracts—which offshoring companies now receive. He supports tax breaks for American manufacturers, including the Crane-Rangel-Holdings legislation, which provide a corporate rate reduction to manufacturers that produce goods in the United States. Kerry also has proposed a new jobs tax credit to encourage manufacturing companies to stay and expand in this country.

### Corporate Accountability

“We will change the corporate culture. We will apply the same tough criminal penalties we used against organized crime to giant corporations—like mutual funds—that steal the lifetime savings and pensions of Americans.”—*John Kerry, Concord, N.H., Nov. 21, 2003*

A John Kerry administration will crack down on dishonest companies and close corporate tax loopholes to pay for tax relief to the middle class. Kerry says the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission needs a fully funded budget to enforce corporate accountability laws now on the books. Enron claimed a \$2.3 billion in profit between 1996 and 1999 in reports to its investors, while reporting a \$3 billion loss to the Internal Revenue Service. Kerry believes corporations should have to account for these kinds of disparities. American companies, Kerry says, should not be allowed to set up virtual headquarters in foreign countries that are hardly more than mailboxes just to avoid paying U.S. taxes. Kerry would ban the federal government from giving lucrative contracts to companies that have a record of fraudulent accounting, such as WorldCom, or are moving overseas. Today, the average CEO makes more than 500 times the salary of his or her average employee and Kerry supports laws to slow runaway executive pay. He also believes in a stronger shareholder voice in determining executive pay compensation.

### A Strong and Secure America

“President Bush says we can’t afford to fund homeland security. I say we can’t afford not to. The Bush Administration is tinkering while the clock on homeland security is ticking.”—*John Kerry, Feb. 9, 2004, Roanoke, Va.* John Kerry’s initiative for homeland security would supplement law enforcement officers with the National Guard, involving them in homeland security in case of a terrorist attack. Americorps funding would be expanded so that its mission will include assisting with medical response and community planning. The Department of Homeland Security would be required to work with metropolitan areas to formulate basic standards of response for chemical, biological and other catastrophic attacks. He is calling on the private sector to help bring technological innovations to the war on terrorism. Believing improvements must be made to the defense of our nation’s skies, seas and land, Kerry would bolster port security and secure bridges and tunnels. Kerry has condemned the Bush administration effort to deny Homeland Security Department employees the freedom to form a union, calling Bush’s efforts “a shameful and cynical political effort to paint those who stood up for workers as anti-security.”

**This article will be continued in the next issue of the Reporter.**

# Membership Meeting Recap

by Tom Bishnell

The membership meeting was held Sunday, June 27, 2004 at Frank Monreal's El Matador at 9:30 a.m. President Scott Godshaw presided over the meeting. Ralph Schwieger gave the Trustee's Report for May. Ross Winklbauer gave the Financial Secretary-Treasurer's Report. Winklbauer stated there were 343 members at Strattec and 1,063 members at Briggs for a total of 1,406.

## Communications

Chris Allen, the new community relations manager for the Hunger Task Force, is looking for volunteers to manage food drives and special events. To register for volunteer opportunities contact 414-777-0483.

The Briggs & Stratton Health Center is announcing its next series of free breast cancer screenings. Call the Health Center at 414-778-6200 to schedule an appointment.

The Executive Board recommended motions that were passed as follows:

- Send \$75.00 to the Milwaukee County Labor Council and the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO to help finance the \$5500 cost of this year's State Fair Union Label Booth.
- Purchase 150 T-shirts for participants in this year's Labor Day Laborfest Parade.
- Send the President and Financial Secretary-Treasurer plus five more members of the Joint Board to the PACE International Regional Leadership Conference September 13th through September 15th in Stevens Point.

## Reports of Officers

Scott reported that at Strattec all remaining traditional lock assembly production will begin to get phased out, resulting in the direct loss of 40 jobs. There is a possibility that Die Cast could be receiving some new work showing a positive sign that Strattec is still committed to Milwaukee.

Also at Strattec, in our recent third stage, the committee voted to take one grievance to arbitration and one to mediation.

At Briggs, Godshaw noted that the Service Division is not moving to the Burleigh Plant as previously stated. Knowing management's wish to stay in the Milwaukee area, Scott contacted Mayor Tom Barrett, who in turn has had Pat Walsh from the City Development Committee call. At present a meeting is being planned with Walsh and Dave Zuern, the Director of the Service Division.

In other news, the president mentioned the new life insurance beneficiary forms which needed to be turned in before July 2nd. Godshaw congratulated the 42 members who were retiring July 1st and the 16 signed up to retire August 1st. There was a WARN notice for four people from Department M7M and nine people from Department 238 on or about August 20th.

Mike Merrill told the members that the high demand for the Micro could possibly push production from 750 to 1,000 engines July 26th. M7M, carburetor machining will be finished by the middle of September. The Outboard Line was building zero production due to the high level of remaining inventory. Mike knew of no date yet when the outboard would move to Power Products. He ended with the mention of new work coming in the form of the old go-cart Intek engine, presently done in Rolla Missouri. It would result in 75 units per day and six jobs.

Jesse Edwards reported that members using the ACTT System must call in at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the shift. He instructed that it is easier to just call in after your shift the previous day.

Departments 770 Cold Forming and 760 Automatic Screw machines have completed their move out of the South Building. Department 797 should be moved by July 26th.

Jesse was told by the Die Cast manager that production this year was good. They are running an average 24 machines and expect to pour more pounds next year. Job elimination was scheduled for Dock 8, Department 720 for July 19, 2004. That has since been changed and could happen on August 23rd.

Jesse ended by wishing everyone a good vacation and congratulated the recent retirees.

From Strattec, Karl Schneider urged members from both companies to look closely at their attendance warnings. Mistakes do happen and warnings shouldn't be signed blindly. He reported on the potential for some new work at Strattec, even though it is premature at this point. Karl also mentioned that he dropped out of the Wellness Committee due to the Company's failure to purchase the T-shirts from a Union Shop.

Under unfinished business, President Scott Godshaw took nominations for the six delegates for the 2004 Wisconsin State AFL-CIO Convention that will be held in Green Bay on September 27th and 28th. Since there were only six members nominated, an election will not be held at the August membership meeting as previously planned. All those that were nominated accepted the nomination to be a delegate. The delegates are as follows: Mike Merrill, Jesse Edwards, Ralph Schwieger, Karl Schneider, Dennis Clark and Greg Weber. The President and the Financial-Secretary/Treasurer are automatic delegates and will be attending the convention as well.

Under new business, Ross Winklbauer read three amended by-laws that will be discussed and voted on at the August membership meeting. (Note: The by-laws, to be voted on, appear elsewhere in this *Reporter* on page 6.)

The next meeting will be held Sunday, August 15, 2004 at Frank Monreal's El Matador, 9155 W. Bluemound Road at 9:30 a.m.

# Strattec

by Bigg Al Olivares

Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

Well, I hope everyone is enjoying the unpredictable Wisconsin summer weather. You know – the hot, cold, rainy, dry weather with the always possible chance of flurries.

Well, on to the current events at Strattec de Milwaukee. As everyone is aware of the unfortunate job loss from Department 64 and the remaining Department 90, these changes are beginning to take place on a personnel level, with scattered body movement being seen throughout the plant. I know there are a lot of questions about who is going where and so on and so forth. All I can tell you is that the Union is working with the company to be sure that moves are contractually correct.

On more of a positive note, Strattec announced that they were awarded new housing business for the die cast area. Of course any new business for the Milwaukee facility is good news, even in the shadow of this unfortunate job loss. This new work will more than likely not create new jobs. But with any luck it will ensure longevity for the remaining workforce. With a little luck and the continued great work that our members continue to do, we will keep on keepin' on into the future.

## EVA

As all of us already know, shortly after the fourth quarter release from Strattec, they announced the EVA payout for this year will be 12.96%. This is reflective of the great jobs done by us, the members, and by *some* of the actions done by the management to make the company more profitable. I say *some*, because I will never support or condone the loss of our jobs and people for profitability. With that being said, I would still like to congratulate the members and management on a job well done getting us to this point.

## Recognition

I would like to take this time to give a little praise to an unsung hero – our Union Stewards! These individuals are on the front line of the battle for enforcing contractual rights. The shop steward is a rare breed, willing to endure at times brutal abuse from both sides, Union and management. More often than not, the steward's successes are overshadowed by continuing complaints by members or just silently forgotten. It is a task not suited for everyone. Their efforts need to be appreciated and they need your respect as your legal representative. The Committee would just like to say thank you. We know you don't hear it often enough. Keep up the great work, while continually fighting the good fight.

# Briggs Retiree Club

Hope you are all out and enjoying our nice summer weather – finally it's here.

Our two picnics at the Post were enjoyed by many.

We now have our August 18th Luncheon. Doors open at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12 noon. Door prizes given and bingo will be played. Do plan on coming. October starts our regular doings, second and third Wednesday of every month. Bingo will be on the second Wednesday and regular meetings on the third Wednesdays. Doors open at 11 a.m. Doings start at 12 noon. All our events are at the "Post #449" on 124th Street. Remember to bring your birthday or anniversary treats on the third Wednesday meeting date.

You must be a paid up member to attend any of our events. Dues are \$24.00 per year. Call Erma Gorecki, our Financial Secretary for more information.

There were no sick members to report at this time. Remember, call me if at any time you know of one of our members in the hospital or ill.

All you retirees come join our club. Meet some of your old friends and make some new ones. You will be glad you did.

Hope to see you at our August luncheon. Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Take care and God Bless,  
Frances P. Capello  
Corresponding Secretary  
262-251-7514

## LOCAL 7-232 REPORTER

August 2004 Volume 25, Issue #7  
LOCAL 7-232 PAPER, ALLIED INDUSTRIAL, CHEMICAL AND ENERGY WORKERS  
INTERNATIONAL UNION

*Representing employees of Briggs & Stratton Corp. and Strattec Security Corp.*

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Briggs Bargaining Committee: Scott Godshaw, Mike Merrill,  
Barb Schuller, Jesse Edwards, Tom Bishanell  
Strattec Bargaining Committee: Scott Godshaw, Karl Schneider,  
Dennis Nowak, Al Olivares

## Notice of proposed changes to by-laws

The following proposed changes to the by-laws of Local 7-232 will be discussed and voted on at the August 15, 2004 membership meeting:

### ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS -SECTION 1 REGULAR MEETINGS

~~Regular meetings shall be held monthly at the time and date designated by a majority vote of the membership present at any regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose.~~

**Regular meetings shall be held a minimum of 6 times per year at the time and date designated by a majority vote of the membership present at any regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose.**

### ARTICLE XI – INITIATION FEE & MONTHLY DUES — Section 3. Forfeiture

~~Except where members' dues and assessments are checked off by the employer, pursuant to properly executed check off cards and union contract, the failure of any member to pay his or her dues or other financial obligations on or before the 10th day of the month for which such dues or other obligations are due, unless officially exonerated by the Local Union with the approval of the International Executive Board, shall result in automatic forfeiture of his or her membership and he or she may be reinstated only upon payment of a new initiation fee and the current month's dues. The Financial Secretary-Treasurer of the Local Union shall make note of all such forfeitures of membership on his or her monthly report to the International Secretary-Treasurer.~~

**Any member who is three (3) months or more in arrears in the payment of dues, fines or assessments shall be automatically suspended and dropped from the rolls notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary.**

**Any member who has been suspended for non-payment of dues, fines or assessments may be reinstated upon payment(s) of a new initiation fee, and all unpaid monies due at the time of his/her suspension or expulsion.**

### ARTICLE XIV – LOCAL UNION OFFERS AND ELECTIONS

#### Section 8. Election Malfeasance

Any member ~~accused~~ **convicted** of misrepresenting returns, altering, mutilating or destroying deposited ballot, voting fraudulently, or interfering with a member in the exercise of his or her right to cast his or her ballot in Local Union voting and/or elections, **shall be referred to trial according to Article XI, of the PACE International constitution**, punished as the Local Union may determine. In no case shall the penalty be less than a fine of \$10, and the member so convicted shall be disqualified for either elective or appointive office within the jurisdiction of the Local Union for a period of not more than five (5) years.

## Grievance Rep Reports

### Strattec Security

by Karl Schneider

Brothers and Sisters:

The following is an excerpt from a previous report in regards to recall: When you are out on plant-wide layoff, the company will recall you to the least senior job that you can perform. I also reminded members then as well as now, if the company requires a test for a job, to be considered for that job you need to have a previous test on file with the company.

#### POSITIVE NEWS

We did receive some positive news recently. We have acquired more housing business; some is replacement for existing work and some is new business.

The other positive news is the announcement of a very good EVA. The Union leadership is extremely pleased that the Strattec Board of Directors is committed to making contributions to the pension fund; and it does not hurt either that it impacts our EVA in a positive way. This years EVA bonus payout will be 12.96%.

In Solidarity,  
Karl Schneider

## UPCOMING EVENTS

August 15 -Membership Meeting

September 6 - Labor Day  
LaborFest at the Lakefront



September 19- Membership Meeting  
(tentative)

September 27-28- Wisconsin State AFL-CIO  
Convention

# Grievance Rep Reports

## Briggs & Stratton First & Third Shift

by Mike Merrill & Barb Schuller

### MED NORTH

On July 26th the Micro line increased production from 750 to 1000 run rate. This added 3 operators and 1 labor grade 21. As of this writing there is still high demand for the Micro engine.

M7M - We were informed that a warn notice was sent, effective Sept. 18/19th when the department will be eliminated. As we all know this is subject to change. This will affect approximately. 11 members.

M3-The Company has stated that the department will be eliminated in October, subject to change.

The company has informed us that in late fall, we will be assembling the Intek Go-Kart engine which is currently being assembled in Rolla. The production level is 15,000 per year that equates to a run rate of 70 per day. The company is projecting approx. 6 or 7 operators will be needed to build the engine. This is strictly an assembly operation, no machining. This is subject to change.

### MED SOUTH

Department 797 Coils is completely moved into it new location on the northeast end of the plant. Department 780 has all but one press in their new location. Department 238 is completely moved. Heat Treat will start moving approximately the third week of August with completion by the end of September. Department 743 Swecos will be moving late August to the area currently held by the rack plater in plating. Department 765 grinders is scheduled to be moved late September. This will be the last department to be relocated.

### SERVICE UPDATE

The company has scheduled a meeting with our members on August 4th regarding the move. To this date, this is all the information available to us.

### KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Workers Compensation-Any type of injury even if it is minor, must be reported at the time of incident, if not reported it can lead to problems regarding your Workers Compensation claim.

If you are totally disabled by your doctor, and you have a part time job, it is Briggs opinion that you cannot work at this job. We have had cases where the Briggs & Stratton Workers Comp. Department has used private detectives to video our members that were totally disabled and working a part time job. According to Briggs this is fraud and could lead to discharge. If you are restricted to light duty on Workers Comp. and have a part time job, you can work it as long as you are working within your restrictions. Please check with your doctor or Union Rep.

In Solidarity,

Barb Schuller and Mike Merrill

## Briggs & Stratton Second Shift

by Jesse Edwards

### ACCT SYSTEM

When reporting your absence, you have to call in at least 15 minutes prior to the start of your shift. A lot of our members will wait until the day that they will be off to call in. However, after the end of your shift TODAY you can call in for the following day. This will prevent you from getting up early in the morning just to call in. This is true for all three shifts.

### SOUTH MOVES

It was reported a while back that the South building would be sold and torn down. All of the jobs that are not scheduled to be outsourced and departments south of column 4 are in the process of moving. Departments 770 Cold Headers and 760 Automatic Screw Machines have completed their move. Department 797 is scheduled to be moved by July 26th. Departments 770 and 760 are located just south of Die Cast. 797 is located near where M-5 use to be and it goes all the way over to where M-8 use to be.

### DIE CAST

I was told by the manager from Die Cast that production was the same. They had a good year. They are running on average 24 machines with 18 machine attendants and 12 set-up per shift. The manager also said they expect to pour more pounds next year.

### PAGER/PREFIX

All pagers prefix numbers were change from 402. The NEW prefix is 669 and the last 4 digits remain the same. Just a reminder my pager number is 669-5922.

### DOCK 8

Job elimination was scheduled for Dock 8/ Department 720 for July 19, 2004. That was changed, but at this time we don't have a confirmed date. Personnel told me it would happen on August 23, 2004 or later. At this time the managers are trying to decide. The union doesn't want to see any jobs eliminated, so the longer they stay the better we are.

### VACATION / RETIREES

I hope everyone had a good vacation, and congratulations to all the members that retired.

In Solidarity

Jesse Edwards

## Membership Information

### July 2004

1516 Members in Good Standing

1158 in Briggs & Stratton Unit

358 in Strattec Unit

### July Dues Payments

1069 Dues Paying Members at Briggs

324 Dues Paying members at Strattec

1393 Total Dues Paying Members

(Difference reflects members off work for lay-off, illness or other reasons)

## Wellness Corner- "You can't live without it"

### Beating the Heat: Preventing Heat Exhaustion

Blue skies and brilliant sunshine lure exercisers outdoors like a Trans-Am attracts speeding tickets. Just throw on shorts and a T-shirt and go. But if you don't pay attention to your body's reaction to the heat and humidity, a heat-related injury can quickly put an end to your fun, and lead to more serious problems. Fortunately, heat-related illnesses are easy to prevent, and if caught early, simple to treat.

Dr. Robert Karch, director of the National Center for Health and Fitness at American University in Washington D.C., likens the body's cooling system to that of a car. As your car engine produces heat, coolant carries the heat to the radiator, where it dissipates into the surrounding environment. Without the coolant, the radiator can't do its job, the engine overheats and breaks down.

Your body works the same way as a car engine. When you exercise, your muscles (the engine) produce heat. Skin is your radiator, and water--in the form of sweat--is your coolant. Sweat carries the heat from your body's core to your skin, where it dissipates. If the system breaks down, you will overheat and eventually, break down.

**Prevention** Long exposure to extreme heat or too much activity in the hot sun causes excessive sweating, which removes large quantities of salt and fluids from the body. When the amount of salt and fluids falls too far below normal, overheating can result.

The key to keeping yourself from becoming overheated is to keep your body well supplied with its coolant-water. That means drinking before and during exercise. "For about every thirty minutes of exercise, a person should drink about a cup of water or sports drink," advises Dr. Jane Corboy, a family practitioner and marathoner in Houston, Texas. If you're exercising for less than 45 minutes, water is best, says Corboy. For longer sessions, your body will benefit from the sodium, chloride, sugars, and other ingredients found in sports drinks. Take water stops even if you don't feel thirsty--by the time thirst kicks in, you've already begun to dehydrate.

Certain medications--including many psychiatric drugs and blood pressure medications--affect your body's water balance. People who take them need to drink more than those who don't. Beverages that contain alcohol and caffeine have a paradoxical diuretic effect--even though you are consuming liquid, they actually cause your body to excrete extra fluids. Drinking beer, coffee, or caffeinated sodas can actually decrease your hydration level.

Athletes who exercise regularly should watch out for cumulative dehydration during hot weather. "Lose a little today, a little tomorrow, and a little the next day, and then you wonder why you're feeling lightheaded a week down the road," says Karch.

On hot days, choose clothing with heat control in mind. A well-ventilated cap will help you keep cool, but one made of dense fabric will actually cut down on your ability to dissipate heat. Light-weight, light-colored clothing will keep you coolest. Going shirtless is an option, but if you do, remember to put on sunscreen to avoid sun damage.

According to Corboy, water, and alcohol-based sunscreens work best for athletes because they don't inhibit sweating.

On extremely hot and humid days, reduce the inten-

sity of your workout and move it into an air-conditioned room.

**Symptoms and Treatment** In addition to knowing how to prevent heat-related illnesses, you should also learn how to recognize and treat them. The three forms of heat illness are heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. These aren't really three separate conditions, just increasingly severe stages of overheating.

Heat cramps are basically muscle cramps. According to Corboy, they happen when dehydrated muscles clamp up in an attempt to hold onto the water they have left. They usually occur in the whichever muscles are being used most. A soccer player or sprinter, for example, would get them in his calf muscles.

Treatment of heat cramps is straightforward and self-administered. Stop the activity, go to a cool place if possible, and drink cool liquids. Gentle massage or firm pressure to the affected muscles will relieve the cramping. It's okay to resume the exercise when the cramps are gone.

If you're a victim of heat exhaustion, you will feel a little bit light-headed or dizzy and will probably develop heat cramps. You may also feel nauseous, a bit disoriented, and you will usually be sweating profusely. As heat exhaustion progresses, you will first look very flushed, and then become pale. "At the end of this stage the skin is cold to touch with goose bumps and shivering. Those are pretty serious signs," says Corboy.

Treatment of heat exhaustion is similar to treatment for heat cramps, but more aggressive. You should stop exercising immediately, move to a cool area, and drink cool (not iced) fluids. "At this point it's useful to have some cooling blankets or wet towels that have been soaked in ice to put on your skin to help cool off," says Corboy.

Heat stroke is the most serious of the heat conditions and is considered a medical emergency. People with heat stroke may have the symptoms of heat exhaustion. However, their skin is hot and dry--not cold--because the body loses its ability to sweat and cool itself. People with heat stroke also have an extremely rapid pulse and may be delirious or combative and even pass out. Their body temperature is usually over 104°F, as they have lost the ability to cool down.

If you suspect someone is suffering from heat stroke, call an ambulance immediately. Move the victim to a cool area and use ice, fans, and other methods to lower their body temperature while you wait for help to arrive.

It's important to remember that heat illnesses can strike suddenly and severely. "There are people who don't experience some of the earlier signs and they can very quickly become seriously ill with heat stroke," explains Corboy.

"The reality is that most people won't be affected by it [heat injuries], but the risk is present for everybody," adds Karch. So when you're enjoying the outdoors this summer, remember to pay attention to the temperature and keep your body's radiator topped off with water, because even a Trans-Am will overheat if its fluid level drops too low.

#### RESOURCES:

Aurora Health Care  
<http://www.AuroraHealthCare.org>